DAVID SNYDER: CITY HALL REPORT

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Garrison for Governor? Recent Events Spur Talk

A testimonial dinner for Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and some remarks on busing by Gov. John J. McKeithen turned the political talk this week to future statewide campaigns. The $100-a-couple dinner for Garrison reopened speculation that the powerful New Orleans political figure would run for governor in 1971.

There is no reason to think that Garrison would not do well in the coming gubernatorial race—even against rumored candidates such as C. C. "Taddy" Aycock, Jimmie Davis and Jamar Adcock.

In conjunction with the two-term amendment campaign, the McKeithen forces took a poll to determine statewide popularity.

The results showed Garrison running third behind McKeithen and Russell Long.

Star Not Dimmed

Subsequent events, including the torturous Clay Shaw case, have obviously done nothing to dim Garrison's political star. An easy first primary win in the November race against Harry Connick is proof of that.

Garrison has managed to cement a coalition of blacks and whites, conservatives and liberals, those who revered John Kennedy and those who despise the federal government. It is a coalition that could wear well across the state.

The banquet organizers sold abut 800 tickets without fanfare, and the notables included a cross section of Louisiana politics. Aycock is, of course, likely to be a candidate for governor himself. Wilson Abraham, also there, is busy already organizing for Davis.

Perhaps the least comfortable guest at the dinner was Moon Landrieu, the Democratic nominee for mayor.

Landrieu, who backed Garrison's opponent in the Democratic primary, had an understanding with the banquet planners that he would not be called upon to make a speech. The agreement was ignored and Landrieu was called to the microphone.

Landrieu gritted his teeth through a part of what was considered by many to be an unsavory performance by comedian Mort Sahl, then walked out.

Sahl's Jokes

Sahl's jokes have nothing to do with Garrison's political future, of course. It would appear to be extremely bright, in fact.

A man who has been a long-time Garrison friend believes the DA does not yet know what he wants in the way of a political future, but guesses that he "aspires to Washington" instead of Baton Rouge.

The inference here is the Senate post held by the aging Allen Ellender. But what about McKeithen, also expected to run for the Senate seat?

"He would not hesitate to go against McKeithen," said the politician. The political alliance between the governor and DA has endured through some trying times and despite serious disputes over such things as patronage.

Garrison: Strong in Poll

McKeithen Strategy?

The political appointee was not saying that Garrison necessarily wanted to run against his old friend, but that, should he decide to run, he would not be put off by McKeithen's strength. It may be that Garrison would prove to be equally strong.

Perhaps Gov. McKeithen was thinking of the future when he vowed to oppose busing in Louisiana. There has been precious little busing in the state, but the response to the governor's office has been more than 1,000 calls and more than 500 telegrams expressing agreement with the governor.

SHORTS: The word is that attorney David Treen, twice defeated by Hale Boggs for Congress, will be Ben C. Toledano's mayoral campaign manager . . . Bill Robert, executive secretary to Mayor Victor H. Schiro, may stay on if Landrieu becomes mayor . . . Mike Roccaforte complains that although he does not intend to vote for Landrieu, his Uptown Democratic Association is free to decide as it pleases.